

The Elba Clipper

Volume 123, Number 31 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, December 26, 2019 1 Section, 10 Pages Plus 1 Adv Insert

ALDOT plans to change three traffic intersections in downtown Elba to flashing lights with stop signs

The Alabama Department of Transportation [ALDOT] last week announced traffic plans that will be of interest to downtown Elba motorists.

A press release from ALDOT stated, "with the continued progress of the US-84 project through Elba, ALDOT will place the following signalized intersections into flash to evaluate them for possible removal no earlier than January 16, 2020. The evaluation

period will last 90 days, unless traffic dictates the signals need to return to full operation sooner. At the end of the 90 days a final decision will be made on the possible removal of these traffic signals."

The intersection marked for this traffic change are:

- Claxton Ave. (AL-87) at Simmons St. will flash yellow on Claxton Ave. and flash red on Simmons St. There will also be stop signs placed on Simmons

St.

- Factory St. at Davis St. (AL-87) will flash all red with stop signs on all approaches.

- Claxton Ave. (AL-87) at Davis St. will flash all red with stop signs on all approaches.

Officials from Elba City Hall encourage all motorists to take note of these proposed changes and travel with extra caution through the downtown area as the changes are made.



MONDAY MORNING FIRE DESTROYS WOOD-WORKING SHOP...Local firefighters, including volunteers from Elba and Five Star, worked Monday morning, Dec. 23, to extinguish a fire that destroyed Dave's Wood Working Shop, located on Coffee County Road 221 in Coffee County. No injuries were reported from this fire, but the shop was a total loss [as can be seen from the photo above].

Coffee County Commission votes during Monday morning meeting to place items on GovDeals.com for surplus sale

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission met Monday morning, Dec. 23, and other than wishing citizens a Merry Christmas, there were a few routine business items that commissioners approved.

The engineer's office had the biggest list for commissioners to consider. Assistant engineer Michael Walters presented the requests from the engineer's office.

Walters said the department had a 2012 model batwing bush hog it would like to place on GovDeals.com for sale. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve this request.

Walters noted a second older model batwing bush hog that had been replaced with a new one had been transferred to the landfill as environmental services was in need of one.

Walters said the bus shed at the Ino Senior Center has recently been replaced with a new larger one; therefore, he asked commissioners for permission to place the old one on GovDeals.com for sale. Again, commissioners voted to approve the request.

The final item presented by Walters was approval of a bid. He said the department had needed additional corrugated metal pipe for driveways and sent out bids for the product. He said the

Coffee County Residential Garbage Pickup Reminder:

Wednesday, Dec. 25th pickup will move to Thursday, Dec. 26th, and

Thursday, Dec. 26th pickup will move to Friday, Dec. 27th.

All pickup will follow the normal schedule for the week of New Year's Day!

low bid on this was Gulf Atlantic Culvert in the amount of \$17,402.30. Commissioners voted to accept this bid.

Environmental services director Mike Thornton reminded county citizens about the residential garbage pickup for Christmas. He said this week's normal Wednesday route would be picked up on Thursday and Thursdays normal route would be picked up on Friday.

Also, Thornton said the garbage pickup schedule would be normal for next week. He said New Year's Day would not affect the pickup of residential garbage at all.

Thornton did note that any extra Christmas overflow garbage such as cardboard or paper should be put in boxes or big plastic

bags. He said there would be extra help on the trucks to get this type of extra overflow picked up as well.

Thornton said he recommended only putting things such as cardboard or paper in the overflow bags, not food items.

County administrator Rod Morgan had only one item for commissioners to consider during Monday's meeting. He said a truck purchased several years back via a Homeland Security Grant and used to pull the county's mobile morgue could be considered surplus and sold, according to the grant rules.

Morgan asked commissioner to allow that truck to be added to the surplus list and sold. He said funds gained through this sale would be added to additional funds to purchase a new truck to pull the mobile morgue.

Commissioners voted to approve this request.

The next Coffee County Commission meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 13, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

ALEA planning greater presence on roadways for extended holiday season

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) will have a greater presence this holiday season by assigning all available Troopers to patrol Alabama roadways and bolster enforcement efforts to prevent traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities.

"Our goal is simply to save lives," ALEA's Secretary Hal Taylor said.

The extended holiday travel period is underway now as it began at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20, and will continue until midnight Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020. During this time, ALEA urges motorists to assist Troopers and their law enforcement partners across the state in promoting safety on all Alabama roadways.

The agency also is participating in the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign, designed to curb alcohol- and/or drug-impaired driving.

When so many are traveling at this time of year, safety is key, Secretary Taylor said. Please obey speed limits, insist everyone in the vehicle buckle up, do not drive while under the influence or while distracted, and do not follow too closely.

"These driving behaviors are among the most deadly," he said. "Let's all do our part during the holiday season, as well as the rest of the



year, to #ArriveAliveAlabama."

Heightened seasonal traffic safety activities are made possible through grant funding from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT).

Additionally, for the safety of motorists and construction/maintenance crews during this season, ALDOT will suspend temporary lane closures on Alabama interstate highways from 6 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24, to 6 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, and from noon Tuesday, Dec. 31, to 6 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020.

Wreaths Across America ceremony conducted Dec. 14th at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church cemetery

On a brisk, sunny day Saturday, Dec. 14, members of the Gen. Edmond Winchester Rucker 2534 Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy gathered at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery along with church members and guests to commemorate Wreaths Across America and honor the nation's military.

The 11 a.m. ceremony was sponsored by the Rucker Chapter and the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church.

Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church dates back to 1848 and many of the graves in the cemetery are almost as old. Although built in 1848, the church had fallen into disrepair but was restored to much of its



JROTC members from Enterprise High School (l to r): 2nd Lt. Swafford, Capt. Wallace, Sgt. Smith, Sgt. 1st Class Frey and 2nd Lt. Stone.

original beauty in the late 1990s.

It sits on a beautiful hill overlooking farms and forests and in a distance the City of Elba. In the cemetery are buried many of Elba's oldest family names such as: Wise, Davis, Farris, English, Donaldson and many other well-recognized names in the area.

The ceremony began inside the beautiful, cozy church sanctuary. The church was tastefully decorated for the Christmas season with a nativity scene, Christmas trees and other symbols of Christmas.

A large wreath was set in the front center.

The ceremony began with Rucker Vice President and Chaplain Cathy Odom presiding. She introduced members of the military and their families asking them to stand and give their branch of service and other pertinent information.

Odom also introduced very special guests, members of the Enterprise High School ("EHS") JROTC. Those members present were Capt. Wallace, 2nd Lt. Stone, 2nd Lt. Swafford, Sgt. 1st Class Frey and Sgt. Smith.

At 11 a.m. a silent prayer

was offered for all military followed by a spoken prayer by Cathy Odom. The salute was given to the Christian flag; led by Donna Smith, Rucker Chapter member, followed by the singing of "How Firm a Foundation". The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Hilda Allen, guest from the Thomas Randolph Thomasson 2471 Chapter of Andalusia, followed by the singing of the "Star-Spangled Banner".

Rucker Chapter Second Vice President and Secretary Patsy Stephens led the ceremony as flags were placed in a wreath of fresh greenery for each branch of service. As Sgt. Smith placed the United States flag in the wreath a special tribute was given to Enterprise native, Joshua Kaleb Watson, who lost his life at the Pensacola Air Station.

Watson had been a member of the EHS JROTC and a classmate of some of the students present. Flags

See WREATHS, Page 3

NOTICE:

The Elba Clipper office will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1st, in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

All news and advertising for the Thursday, Jan. 2nd, edition of the newspaper is due to the office before noon Monday, Dec. 30th.



ELBA FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO STRUCTURE FIRE...The volunteers of the Elba Fire Department were dispatched Sunday night, Dec. 22, to the scene of this structure fire on Putnam Street in Elba. Upon arrival, the firefighters found a single-family wood frame home with a moderate amount of smoke visibly coming from the structure. The fire was located in the kitchen of the home, and firefighters contained it to that area. The kitchen suffered heavy fire damage while the rest of the home had smoke damage. Firefighters also accessed the attic space through the roof to check for additional fire and to assist in ventilation (as shown above). No injuries were reported from this

Area Happenings

THE CITY OF ELBA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

Wednesday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. There will be standby crews available to assist with any utility emergencies. For any utility emergency, report it to the Elba Police Department at (334) 897-2555 during this time. The city offices will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

*"But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT"* —Clement Clark Moore

There was a W C Fields movie released by Universal way back in 1939 named *"You Can't Cheat an Honest Man"*. We have no idea what happens in that old picture show, but the title resonated in our ole brain . . . "Hey, there is lots of truth in those six words"!!! Of course there are exceptions but so many con games are based on the idea of us imperfect humans thinking we can get something for nothing.

A news release received this week revealed that Alabama has the seventh (7th) highest burglary rate in the nation. Most southern states were clustered in that 'most' group, along with some in the middle section of America. The surprising thing was that places like New York were on the low end of that chart. The report was not able to explain the reason for that but noted it was probably because those high-rise apartments were harder to break into than the single-family dwellings all across the rural portion of the nation. The message of the article was "lock your doors and windows".

Belinda Ordon of Elba was one happy mother last week when she learned that TWO daughters had been named 'Teacher of the Year' at their respective schools in Houston County. Both Jeneave Mitchell at Kelly Springs Elementary and Monique Flowers at Jerry Lee Faine Elementary were honored with that title last week. That could not have happened without strong parenting during their younger days and of course getting a good public education themselves . . . in Elba, Alabama. You make us proud ladies!!!

Monday morning, sometime between 5:30 and 7:30 we misplaced one of our cold weather gloves. It is still missing at this writing. Rather than being upset, this brought back a memory . . . and a hardy laugh. Our grandfather, not the newspaper publisher, but dad's dad, was a railroad man (with the old L & N). His two sons and both sons-in-law also railroaded. He retired when us grandkids were very young, so all the stories he told (and retold) we knew from memory. However, after finishing high school and going off for a 'higher' education we were working one summer for a plant foreman who, in his younger days, had railroaded with granddaddy . . . and boy did he have some humorous tales to tell! That brings us back to the missing glove. It seems that granddaddy had bought a new pair of work gloves one morning. He was directing the train as it departed the station in Montgomery later that day and grabbed onto the moving caboose as it came by. Somehow, he dropped one of his new gloves. As he watched it lying there between the train tracks get smaller and smaller as the train picked up speed, his friend and co-worker saw him toss the remaining glove back down track and with some very colorful words he really knew how to use and said loudly, 'I hope the *&%\$ who finds the first one is lucky enough to find the other one as well.' When his co-workers laughed, he explained (very practically) "Well one glove is no good without the other one." So if you see us throwing away a nice black leather glove, it is because granddaddy's genes continue to be a great influence (maybe much too great in some ways) on us all these years later. We don't use his descriptive words, but the results are about the same.

We hope your Christmas is/was a happy one that left many more great memories in your memory bank to share with others throughout your life.

From Representative Martha Roby: Sharing the joy of Christmas

The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year, and it is easy to get caught up in all the responsibilities that come along with it.

These obligations can be quick to distract us from the true meaning behind the Christmas season. With everything happening across our country and around the world, it is inevitable that our attention is focused elsewhere.

As we gather with family and friends this year to celebrate, I pray that we do not forget the reason behind this special holiday: the birth of Jesus Christ and His message of hope in a troubled world. This powerful message rings as true today as it did centuries ago for the shepherds and watchmen who gathered to bear witness to Jesus' birth.

Although it is easy to get caught up in the stress and chaos of our promises and commitments, the nativity story and this important holiday serve as reminders that there is always a source of hope, no matter the circumstances.

Jesus lived his life on earth displaying love, kindness, and joy to all, regardless of their situation or struggles, and we are called to follow His example and do the same. Many of us are fortunate enough to celebrate in the company of our loved ones. Let's do our best to ensure that everyone in our communities enjoy the Christmas holiday by remembering those who are not as fortunate.

My thoughts are with those who are suffering: those who are battling illnesses, fighting financial struggles, or spending Christmas in the absence of loved ones. Many mothers and fathers selflessly serve in our military, and they will not be able to celebrate Christmas at home with their children. We owe

much gratitude to these devoted servicemembers for sacrificing time with their family to protect our country.

In the spirit of the holiday, I am encouraged by all those who are able to reach out to those in their community who may need a helping hand. Whether you decide to donate toys to children in need, write letters to soldiers overseas, collect food for local food banks, or bake delicious

Christmas treats for your neighbors, every heartfelt action makes a difference.

Each bit of compassion makes the world brighter. Let's spread kindness with every opportunity that comes our way. Joy is contagious, and our efforts will have a positive impact across our communities.

I am extremely honored to represent the people of the Second Congressional District in Congress. It has been a blessing to have so

many unique opportunities over the years to dedicate my efforts to serving the needs of my constituents. I hope that we will all remember to follow in Jesus' footsteps and spread joy this holiday season.

From the Roby family to yours, we hope you have enjoyed a wonderful and Merry Christmas.

**** Martha Roby represents Alabama's Second Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama, with her husband Riley and their two children.**

Texty - 911 service - available when one cannot dial 911

The Emergency Communications Districts (ECDs) in Southeast Alabama and the Wiregrass have taken pivotal steps in providing emergency communications to citizens. 911 texting is now available to citizens in Henry, Houston, Dale, Geneva, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Conecuh and Butler Counties. This means that in times citizens are not able to dial 911 they may text to 911 their emergency.

Through a strong coordinated approach to public safety, these counties and cities join local 9-1-1 centers across the nation in the use of text messaging within the 911 center. This new texting service called Texty is provided in part by the statewide 911 network being implemented by the company INdigital. Eventually, this particular texting program will be offered statewide after the full implementation of the new 911 network.

While this texting service will certainly provide a benefit to residents in certain instances, this should by no means replace dialing 911. Residents are asked to dial 911 when they can do so, and only text to 911 when a situation is present where one cannot verbally communicate.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, between Saturday, Dec. 14, and Sunday, Dec. 22, made the following arrests: one for theft, four on warrants, and one for striking fixtures on highway.

There were eight traffic citations and 13 traffic warnings [verbal and written] issued by Elba Police officers during the timeframe of Dec. 14th – Dec. 22nd.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14 – Officers responded to report of a possible shoplifter at the Elba Food Giant – one arrest was made (7:43 a.m.); Officers met with a complainant in the area of County Rd 409 in reference to poisoned dogs (12:53 p.m.); Officers responded to reports of shots fired in area of Jackson Ave (3:04 p.m.).

SUNDAY, DEC. 15 – Officers responded to a report of a possible rolling domestic in the area of the Travel Center (12:06 a.m.);

Officers performed a welfare check on an 11-month-old child in the area of County Rd 263 – DHR was contacted and the child was placed with suitable family due to the presence of drugs (2:37 a.m.); Officers met with a complainant in the area of Winston Ave in reference to vandalism (4:19 p.m.); Officers responded to reports of children left unattended in a vehicle in area of MLK – reports were unfounded (5:05 p.m.).

MONDAY, DEC. 16 – Officers responded to complaints of a suspicious person in the area of the Travel Center – subject was located and advised to leave the area (2:36 a.m.); Officers met with a complainant in the area of Powell Circle in reference to harassment via road blockage – officers advised the subject to leave the area (6:52 a.m.).

TUESDAY, DEC. 17 –

Officers assisted county units in the area of Claxton Ave (12:18 p.m.); Officers responded to reports of a possible altercation at the high school gymnasium – advised individual involved (7:19 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18 – Officers responded to a possible prowler call on County Rd 401 – a search of the area was completed with negative contact with a prowler (8:36 p.m.).

THURSDAY, DEC. 19 – Officer contacted a suspicious person on Reese Ave (2:03 a.m.); Officers responded to a past tense burglary on Newton St. (12:13 p.m.); Officers assisted with a medical call on Beaver Dam Dr (2:54 p.m.); Officers assisted with a medical call on Hickman Ave (4:42 p.m.); Officers responded to an assault in progress call on Mullins Circle – the aggressor reportedly was arrested on warrants from another agency (7:55 p.m.).

FRIDAY, DEC. 20 – Officers responded to a vehicle vs mailbox and street sign accident in the area of Claxton Ave (9:22 a.m.); Officers were out with subjects in the area of County Rd 409 and Hwy 189 S in reference to ATV's in roadway – advised subjects to get them off the roadway (4:35 p.m.); Officers met with subjects on Sollie Dr in reference to noise complaints (6:38 p.m.).

SATURDAY, DEC. 21 – Officers responded to area of Plant and Guyton streets in reference to suspicious subjects (12:57 a.m.); Officers met with complainant in area of Morrow Ave in reference to unwanted guest (12:44 p.m.); Officers responded to Factory Ave in reference to suspicious person (1:46 p.m.).

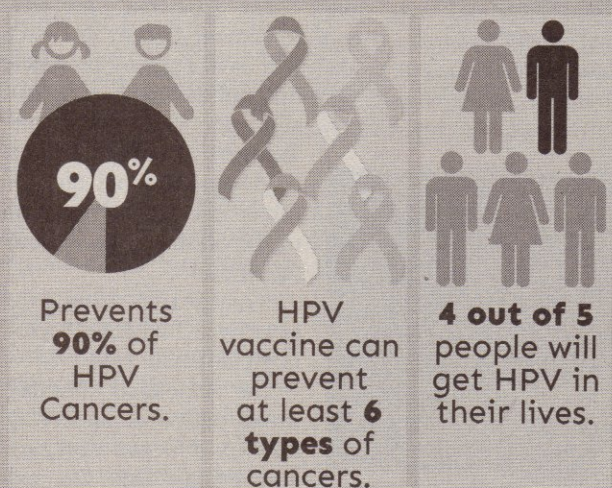
SUNDAY, DEC. 22 – Officers responded to area of Neil Grantham Dr in reference to cows being out (7:38 a.m.).

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HPV VACCINE FACTS:



HPV VACCINE IS CANCER PREVENTION!
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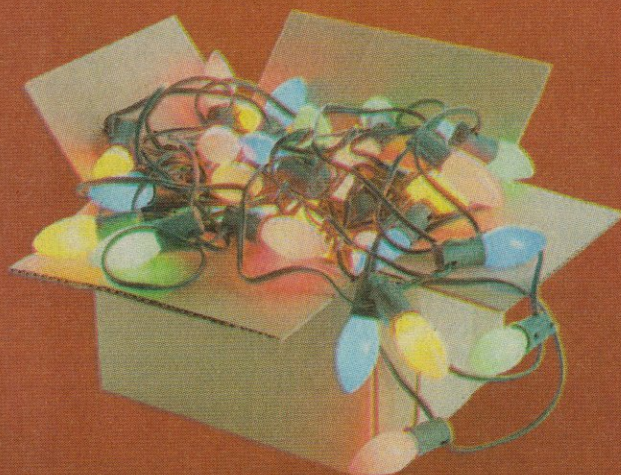
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Ricky Mularz - SPORTS
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$21 per year
6 Months - \$11, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$24 per year - including tax
6 months - \$13
Outside Alabama - \$27 per year - 6 months - \$15

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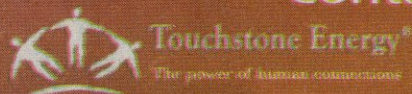
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May your future be merry and bright
(because you're saving money using LED lights).

We value your business. We value you.

Contact: Mickey Murdock



@ (334) 897-2333

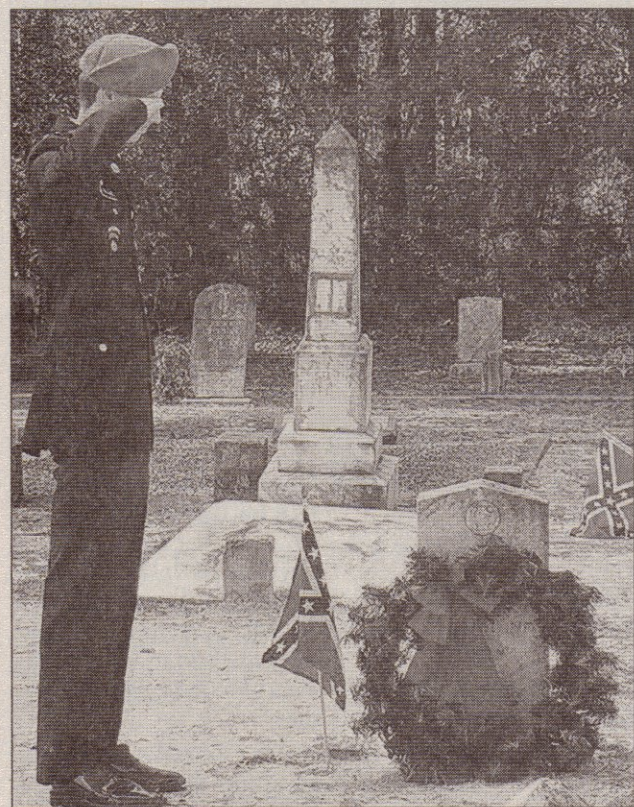
New ADN graduates pinned at LBWCC's Opp campus....

LBW Community College Associate Degree Nursing graduates were recently recognized during a pinning ceremony in Opp. Those participating included, front row from left, Markia Reese, Elba; Roshonda Ballard, Montgomery; Christina Gray, Dozier; Maggie Hartley, Georgiana; second row, Ryan Hunt, Brewton; Brinley Williams, Elba; Megan Williamson and Misty Cottle, both of Andalusia.



WREATHS

(Continued from Page One)



Capt. Wallace salutes

were also placed for the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, merchant Marines, Coast Guard, a POW MIA flag was placed in the wreath and a Confederate flag.

Following the ceremony of placing the flags in the wreath, Odom called the name of all known veterans buried in the cemetery. She also recognized veterans who had family members present. As the names were called, family members were asked to stand and tell about their ancestor or relative.

Following the recognition of each veteran, the assembly adjourned to the cemetery where a rolling thunder cannonade was given by Clanton's Battery Company B of Elba. The JROTC members placed the wreath in the cemetery.

Following the completion of the Wreaths Across America ceremony, the attendees adjourned to the church fellowship hall and enjoyed a birthday party celebrating the 200th birthday of the great state of Alabama. Bethne Cowen, member of the Rucker Chapter, led the pledge to the Alabama flag followed by the singing of "Alabama". Rucker Chapter member Donna Clark led the pledge to the Confederate flag followed by the singing of "Dixie's Land". The food was blessed and everyone enjoyed a lunch of chili, sandwiches, hotdogs and desserts, including an Alabama-flag decorated birthday cake.



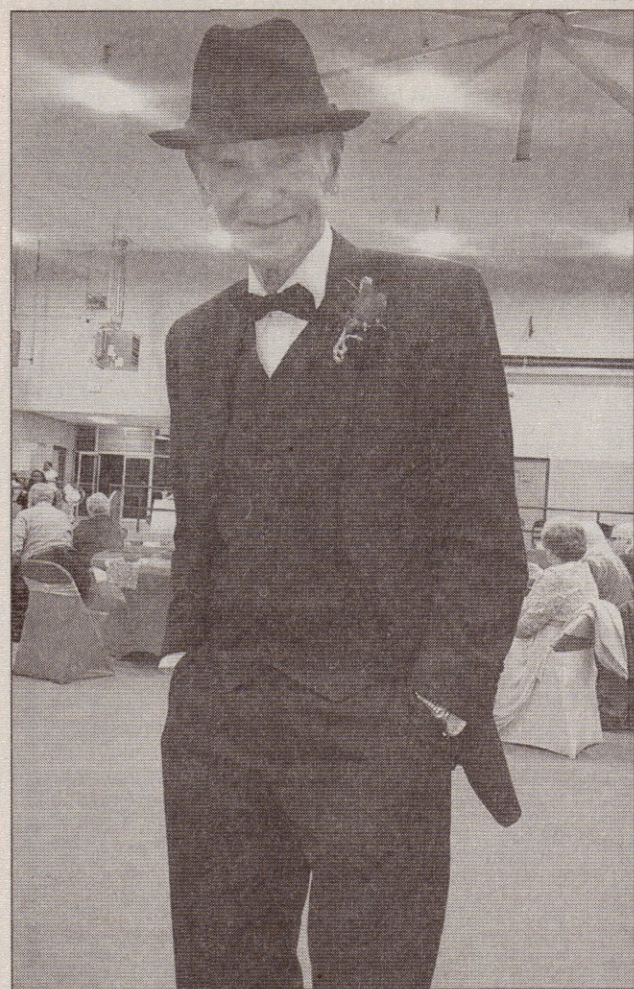
New Hope Senior Center hosts first Christmas Gala

New Hope senior center sponsored its first annual Christmas Gala. The theme was season of celebrations!

Seniors from New Hope, Elba, Mt. Pleasant, Ino and Enterprise enjoyed this event. Special thanks to the Coffee County Commission, Pattie Culver, Classy C Events (provided the decor), Alonzo "DJ Flake" Cole (provided different genre of music), Tracey Williams (provided an Italian Meal) and the wonderful young ladies of AKA Culturama for serving.

New Hope Senior Center director Conzuela Banks said, "This will be a night to cherish always. I was completely smitten by the beauty of our wonderful seniors. We are looking forward to it growing more each year!"

To the right and below are a few photos from the event.

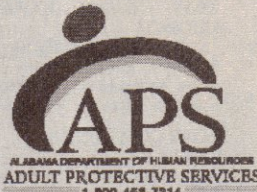


**ATTEND THE CHURCH
OF YOUR CHOICE
THIS SUNDAY!!**

**1 OUT OF 10
ELDERLY PERSONS AND ADULTS
WITH DISABILITIES ARE BEING:
Abused, Neglected or Exploited**

If you suspect this is happening to someone you know, please report it to Adult Protective Services by contacting your local DHR office or calling the ADULT ABUSE HOTLINE at 1-800-458-7214

**HELP STOP THE ABUSE
IF YOU SEE IT, REPORT IT**



There's no excuse for
ELDER ABUSE



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Obituaries

Death notices updated regularly on our website at <www.elba-clipper.com>

GLADYS ALENE BARLOW

Mrs. Gladys Alene Barlow, age 92, of Brantley, Ala., died Wednesday, Dec.



18, 2019, at Elba Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Elba, Ala. Funeral services were held Dec. 20, 2019 from Hayes Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed in the Pine Level Community Cemetery.

Survivors include her son: Ronald Ray Barlow, daughter-in-law: Debbie Barlow, granddaughter: Charly (David) Mitchell, and great-granddaughter: Paisley Rae Mitchell, all of Brantley.

BILLY WINFRED HATAWAY

Mr. Billy Winfred "Bill" Hataway, age 75, a resident of Elba, Ala., died Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019, at Opp Health and Rehabilitation Center in Opp, Ala.



Funeral services were held Dec. 21, 2019 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home Chapel in Elba with Rev. Mike Shortt officiating. Burial followed in the Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Those wishing to make memorial donations are asked to do so to the Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 3075 County Road 460, Samson, Alabama 36477.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Past-teen Davis Hataway and Winfred "Dink" Hataway, along with a sister, Wynell Hataway.

Survivors include his

wife: Margaret Hataway, brothers: Bobby (Gladys) Hataway and Malcom (Donna) Hataway, and a sister: Charlene Ludlum, all of Elba.

N.D. "TOM" CAMPBELL

Mr. N. D. "Tom" Campbell, age 93, of the New Hope Community, died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019, at Troy Health and Rehab.

Funeral services were held Dec. 18, 2019 at Skeen Funeral Home Chapel in Troy with Pastor Randy Adams and Pastor Eric Bradley officiating. Burial followed in New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery with Skeen Funeral Home of Troy directing.

Mr. Campbell was born in Barbour County, Ala., on December 2, 1926. He retired from Dorsey Trailers after 30 plus years of work.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mamie Campbell; parents, Nick and Molly Danford Campbell; brothers: Jack Campbell, Tullis Campbell, Early "Bitsy" Campbell and Alfred Campbell; sisters, Claudia McKee and Mary Sue Fuqua; and a grandson, Matthew Childs.

Survivors include his daughters: Mamie W. McWaters, Brundidge, Ala., Marcy Childs, Woodland Grove Community, Cindy Harris, Enterprise, Ala.; grandchildren: Amanda Rodgers (Josh), New Brockton, Ala., Greg McWaters (Julie), Elba, Jeff McWaters, Oakdale, La., Morris Childs (Ashley), Elba, Anthony Childs, Level Plains, Ala., and Cindy Kay Bell, Mechanicsville, Va.; 16 great-grandchildren, and 10 great great-grandchildren.

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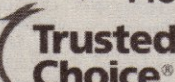
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CHURCH NEWS

“Naughty and Nice” is for always

GUEST COLUMN BY R.A. MATHEWS

Tis the Season. Every two-year-old knows what's up—the naughty and nice suffer different fates.

It's always been so. At the very first Christmas the nicest received the best gifts. Remember how the angel Gabriel, who stands in the Presence of God, comes to a virgin and tells her that God has seen her goodness. Gabriel says it not once but twice, repeatedly telling Mary that God thinks she's really nice.

“Greetings,” Gabriel says to Mary. “You who are highly favored!” (Luke 1:28)

She's frightened and Gabriel says it again.

“Mary, you have found favor with God.” (Luke 1:31)

That's when she discovers her blessing, the greatest gift of all time—Mary will give birth to the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)

Mary was very nice.

Of the nearly three billion Christians in the world, all know of Mary and the Christmas story. But how many remember the old man of Christmas? No, not Santa Claus. The story of Santa is nowhere in Scripture—Santa probably came from a wealthy 4th century man named Nicholas who gave gifts to the poor.

Scripture's old man in the Christmas story is someone entirely different. No red suit, reindeer, or presents. His name is Simeon.

Eight days after the birth of Jesus and long before the Wise Men arrive, Mary and Joseph take their newborn to the temple in Jerusalem. They have two reasons—he's their first baby and he's a male. Under God's law given to Moses in the desert some 1500 years earlier, every such baby must be presented to God with a sacrifice. (Exodus 13:2, 12, 15; Numbers 3:13)

As I just said, it's the angel Gabriel who speaks to Mary. Gabriel also speaks to Zechariah, a righteous man,

telling Zechariah that his prayers have been answered—Zechariah becomes the father of John the Baptist, six months before Christmas. And it's an angel who tells Joseph in a dream to take Mary as his wife. (Luke 1:28, 11-20; Matthew 1:20)

But now the Holy Spirit takes over the Christmas story. It's common for the Spirit to intervene in the lives of God's people. You've seen His Presence. You've said, “That was the Holy Spirit!”

The Holy Spirit is different with Simeon. Scripture tells us four things:

First, Simeon is special. “The Holy Spirit was on him.” (Luke 2:25)

Second, the Spirit has given Simeon a revelation. “It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.” (Luke 2:26)

Third, on this 8th day the Holy Spirit comes to Simeon and tells Simeon to go to the temple courts. (Luke 2:27)

Perhaps Simeon doesn't know why, the Bible doesn't tell us. What we do know is that Simeon eyes Mary and Joseph and apparently asks to hold their newborn. Simeon takes Baby Jesus into his arms and praises God:

“Sovereign Lord,” Simeon says, “as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation...” (Luke 2:28-30)

But the Holy Spirit isn't done—Simeon sees the future. He blesses the parents and tells them what Jesus will do with His life. Then Simeon gives Mary the saddest of prophecies: “A sword will pierce your own soul.” (Luke 2:33-35)

Who was this old man? We only know that Simeon was righteous and devout. (Luke 2:25)

Why was he chosen?

Why did the Holy Spirit rest on him? Why was Simeon given the revelation that he would see the Messiah? Why was he led to the temple, guided to Mary and Joseph, and told the prophecy of Jesus' life?

Why? Here's a hint. When the angels are in the fields with the shepherds, they praise God, saying:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:8-14)

They don't say, “Peace to all.” They say, “Peace...on whom his favor rests.”

Why Simeon? Why Mary? Why Zechariah? Why did each receive such amazing gifts at the first Christmas?

Ask a two-year-old—the naughty and nice suffer different fates.

Those who love the Lord and seek to please Him receive God's greatest blessings.

Merry Christmas!

Copyright © 2019 R.A. Mathews The Rev. Mathews is a faith columnist, attorney, and the author of “Reaching to God.” Write to her at Letters@RAMA-mathews.com

ACTS Ministries to host several upcoming events

ACTS Ministries will host an End of the Year Revival on December 30-31, 2019.

On Monday, December 30th, services will be held at New Jerusalem COGIC in Enterprise, Alabama and will begin at 7 P.M. On Tuesday, December 31st, services will be held at Harris Temple COGIC in Elba and will begin at 10 P.M.

The guest speakers for this revival will be Elder Steve and Evangelist Sheila Gunter.

Everyone is invited to attend.

On Jan. 30th - Feb. 1st, ACTS Ministries will host an Evangelistic/Prophetic Youth Conference. Services for January 30th and 31st will begin at 7 P.M. The service on February 1st will begin at 6 P.M.

The guest speakers will be Co-Pastor Lois Russell (30th) and Pastor Tirrell Glover (31st).

The ACTS Ministries Youth Pastor, Elder Rodrick Caldwell, will be honored on February 1st.

Please bring church youth to be a part of this conference.

Country Cathedral to host GLORY Community Service on Dec. 29th

A GLORY Community Service will be held Sunday, Dec. 29, at Country Cathedral, located on U.S. Highway 84 E, Opp, Ala.

The service will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature: Westview AG P&W Team, Sanford AG P&W Team,

Transformed Drama Team, Patti Spann & Laurette Blair, the Singing Dyess Family, and Minister Rev. Art Hornsby.

For more information, call 334-493-7413.

Everyone is invited to attend this special service on Dec. 29th.

Round and About With Eria's Daughter 897-3611



Scripture: The Blessedness of Answered Prayer. Psalm 30: 1-12

Thinking of You! Praying for You.

Bethlehem Church Family, Alex Hutchinson, Myron Duncan, Anthony Kelley, Tonya Smith, Dea. J.L. Williams

December & January Birthdays / Anniversaries

Lorene Cole 12/28 in memory
Anaiya Henderson 12/28
Alice Musgrove 12/28
Leslie Moore 12/29 in memory
Rev. A.R. and Bessie Williams 12/31 W.A.
Trina Flowers 1/1
Melissa Y. Kelley 1/2
Alice Dozier 1/3
Phillip N. Faison 1/3
Lasalle Cooks 1/3
Jeff and Audrey Bennett 1/4 W.A.
Martha Gilford 1/7
Ellis Daniels 1/7

** Musician's Appreciation event honoring Katonya L. Peterson

will be Sunday, Dec. 29, at 2:30 p.m. at St. John Baptist Church in Luverne, Ala. Special guest will be New Beginning Ministry of Greenville, Ala. All choirs, groups and soloists invited.

** Peace

People want peace. In the 1980s a retired couple was alarmed by the threat of war, so they undertook a serious study of all the inhabited places on the globe. Their goal: find the place in the world least likely to experience war, especially nuclear war.

They studied and traveled and finally found the ideal place and on Christmas they sent their pastor a card from their new home, a little known and isolated place called the Falkland Islands. But in just days their paradise became a battle zone as

Great Britain and Argentina fought for control of those islands.

The “encyclopedia of military history” by Dupuy and Dupuy lists over four thousand battles and sieges since 3,500 B.C. The most destructive wars of the twentieth century in human history! Today, armed conflicts continue to pop up on every continent on the earth except Antarctica – and people would probably be fighting there if it weren't so cold! Our world still needs peace.

Peace isn't found in a property, no matter where it's located. Peace is found in a person, Jesus Christ. Do you know Him?

~ J.A.M.

Question / Answer Section Q/A for the Week of 12-19-19

Q: What is Jesus' rule for getting along with others?
A: Whatever ye would that men shall do to you, do ye even so to them. [Read Matthew 7:12]

Q: According to James, what is the Royal Law?
A: Read James 2:8

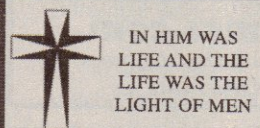
Q: How did Moses summarize the rule for living with neighbors?
A: The Ten Commandments. Exodus 20:1-17

Thought to Remember It is Well with My Soul

Question for the Week of 12/26/19

Use Your Concordance
Q: Who became King of Judah when he was eight years old and reigned for 31 years?

Today is a good day! Be grateful.
Eria's Daughter, Sue



IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIGHT OF MEN

ABOUNDING GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rocky Pearce, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH
SAMSON, Ala.
Richard Thorn Sr., Pastor
Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m.

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sam Self, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

BETHELEHEM CHURCH
Rev. Deborah A. Butler, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Class... 6:30 p.m.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
Greg Cotter, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Disciple Train... 5:30 p.m.
Even. Worship... 6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Senn, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH
Robert Davis, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.

CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST
Rev. Remonia Smith
Church Service... 9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH
Larry Mills, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Night... 7:00 p.m.

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Diana White, Pastor
Bible Study... 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship... 9:45 a.m.
Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night (Youth Real Deal and Children's Activities) ... 6:00 p.m.

DAMASCUS BAPT. CHURCH
Steve Watson, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH
Dale Morgan, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Discipleship Training 5:00 p.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.

EAON BAPTIST CHURCH
Mark Ward, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:15 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Phillip Box, Minister
Bible Study... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:30 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD
David Noble, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 10:45 a.m.
Even. Worship... 5:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY
H.L. Buckner, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Night... 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. Night... 7:00 p.m.

ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE
Allen Richards, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m.

ELBA 1st BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Anderson, Interim Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m.

ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Steve Reneau, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Services... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.

ELBA ZION BAPT. CHURCH
Lovell Martin, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.

Church Directory

EVANGELIST TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Timothy Williams, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.

FAIRVIEW BAPT CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

FAITH CHAPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Phillip Adcock, Pastor
Sunday Morning... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

1st ASSEMBLYS OF GOD - KINSTON
Danny Bradshaw, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 7:00 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
Scott Donaldson, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP HOLINESS CHURCH
Edward E. Drake, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening... 5:00 p.m.

GODS POWER HOUSE EVANGELISTIC CHURCH
Overseers - Bro Billy Berry
Sat. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Sun. Service... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 4:00 p.m.

GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Willie L. Peterson, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.

HARRIS TEMPLE COGIC
W. K. Ellison, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Service... 6:00 p.m.

HAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Steve Reneau, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 8:45 a.m.

HAW HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Shirley Ellis, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

INO ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Wesley D. Ard, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting... 6:30 p.m.

INO BAPTIST CHURCH
Garry Winstead, Pastor
Sunday School... 8:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

JACK ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Matthew Morris, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

KINSTON 1st BAPT CHURCH
Ben Posey, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

LIVING WOOD CHURCH
Derrick Stinson, Pastor
Saturday Service... 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service... 10:30 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Youth Service... 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. Service... 6:00 p.m.

LIBERTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
Greg Hanchey, Minister
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

LOVE'S WAY CHURCH
Charles Jones, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m.

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
J. R. Parks, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays

MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH
Dewey Emfinger, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 5:00 p.m.

MT. OLIVE BAPT. CHURCH
Olan Strickland, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Kevin Byrd, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit NEW ABUNDANT LIFE DEL.
Linda Williams, Pastor
Sunday... 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Even... 7:30 p.m.

NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST - ENTERPRISE
W. K. Ellison, Pastor
Morning Worship... 9:00 a.m.
Evening Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening... 7:00 p.m.
Friday Evening... 7:00 p.m.

NEWRIA BAPTIST CHURCH
Will Jordan, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Disciple Train... 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Services 7:00 p.m.

NEW BROCKTON METHODIST
Dr. Craig Bailey, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:30 p.m.

NEW CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Terry Godwin, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study... 5:00 p.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:00 p.m.

NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH
Randall Pearson, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:00 p.m.

NEW GLORIOUS CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
James Starks Jr., Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Bib Stud Wed... 6:00 p.m.

NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Brad Sasser, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Even. Service 6:30 p.m.

NEW HOPE BAPT CHURCH
Lanny Shepard, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

NEW PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Loreard Flowers, Minister
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.

OAK GROVE BAPT. CHURCH
Julian Mitchell, Pastor
1st., 4th Sun. Morn.
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.

OLD TABERNACLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Lee Jones, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.

PERDUE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m.

PINEY GROVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD - SAMSON
Terry McCrummen, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship... 6:00 a.m.
Wed. Worship... 7:00 p.m.

PRAYSE & GLORY WORSHIP CENTER
Roy L. Turner, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m.

ROCKY HEAD M.B. CHURCH
A. R. Williams, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

ROFTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:00 p.m.

SHADY GROVE A.M.E.
James Boots, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Praise Service Mon 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 4:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:30 p.m.

TAYLOR HILL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Service 5:00 p.m.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
Pastor Bishop E.H. Hill
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Noon Worship... 12:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 7:00 p.m.
Youth Ser. Mon... 7:00 p.m.
Wed Bible Class... 7:00 p.m.
Fri Missionary Ser... 7:00 p.m.

THE WAY OF HOLINESS CHURCH, Elba
Max Reed, Minister
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
C.P. Davis, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service... 6:00 p.m.

VANDERBILT HOLINESS CHURCH
Donald Mills, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:00 p.m.

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
Shayne Allen, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:45 p.m.
Wed. Worship... 7:00 p.m.

VICTORY TABERNACLE
Ruby Lawson, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:00 p.m.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
Ken Wilson, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m.

WHITEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m.

WISE MILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Kenneth Hagler, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

WOODLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Donnie Marler, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:30 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:00 p.m.

WOOTEN CHAPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Mike Medley, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 6:00 p.m.

ZION CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Cary Maulden, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11

LIFESTYLES

Sisters with Elba ties each win "Teacher of Year" award from their separate Dothan schools

An Elba mother gets to celebrate accomplishments of not one but two of her daughters this year as the two sisters each received Teacher of the Year awards from their respective schools in Dothan, Ala.

Belinda Ordon of Elba, is the mother of Dothan, Ala. teachers Jeaneva Mitchell and Monique Flowers. Jeaneva teaches second grade at Kelly Springs Elementary School in Dothan while Monique teaches fourth grade at Jerry Lee Faine Elementary School in Dothan.

Recently, the two sisters each were honored by her respective school as the winner of the "Teacher of the Year" award for the school.

Mom, Belinda Ordon, other family members and Pastor Dr. W.L. Peterson and the Greater New Zion Church family are extremely proud of both Jeaneva and Monique and extend congratulations to each on receiving such a great honor!



Jeaneva Mitchell



Monique Flowers

**Lifestyles
News is Due
Monday!**

Local students named to president's and dean's lists at Wallace Community College

Wallace Community College recently announced the President's and Dean's lists for fall term 2019.

Students awarded to the President's list must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours with a grade point average of 4.0. Eligibility for the Dean's list is based on a GPA of 3.5 or higher, with a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Local students named to

the fall President's list were: Rebekah Florence Allen of Elba; and Colin Andrew Watkins of New Brockton.

Local students named to the fall Dean's list were: Laura Beth Allen and Riley Nicole Boothe, both of Elba; Turner Brooklyn Norris of Jack; and Taylor Lynn Hataway and Kenneth Thomas Hoover II, both of New Brockton.



ELBA BOOK CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY! The Elba Public Library Book Club members gathered last week for a Christmas Party at the library. Jennifer Amlong, library director, said the year in review revealed the favorite book of the year for the book club was, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen's. Amlong said it was a great year for books! The Elba Book CLUB meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., and anyone interested in joining the club is invited to attend the next meeting on Jan 21st. January's read for the club is a series of small books, *The Broken Road* Series by Richard Paul Evan's. Betsy Watson will lead the discussion of books 2 and 3 of that series. Come join the discussion. Book club members pictured above include: (seated, l to r) Joan Ward, Betty Rogers and Ella Kate Ham; (standing, l to r) Nell Gilmer, Jennifer Amlong, Charlotte Goodson, Betsy Watson, and Chris Sutley.

REMINDER:

The Elba Clipper office will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1st, for New Year's Day! All news and advertising for next week's paper is due before noon on Monday, Dec. 30th.



Coffee County Arts Alliance bringing Masters of Soul to Enterprise on Thursday night, Jan. 16th

The Coffee County Arts Alliance and Center Drugs & Home Health will present Masters of Soul - A Motown Music Review on Thursday, Jan. 16, at the Enterprise High School Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.

In the early 60's some of the most iconic names in the history of popular music were discovered in the Motor City of Detroit, Mich., better known, simply as MOTOWN.

MASTERS OF SOUL is a celebration of these artists, their music and style. The show features stylishly costumed fully choreographed tributes to both male and female groups backed by a live band.

Hear the big hits of The Temptations, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell, Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, the Four Tops, Diana Ross & The Supremes, The Jackson Five, Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, Barry White, Stevie Wonder and the Commodores.

The 2019-2020 season is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Emmett T. Brunson. The Platinum Corporate Sponsor for this performance is the City of Enterprise.

For season and individual tickets or information, visit the website at www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.com or call 334.406.2787.

Tickets are available at these locations: David's Westgate Beauty Salon • 334-347-4247 • Enterprise; Redbrick Pizza (next to Publix) • 334-475-2156 • Enterprise; MWR Central - Soldier Service Center • 334-255-2997 • Ft Rucker; Scrubs 101 (behind Atlanta Bread Co) • 334-671-9101 • Dothan.

Individual ticket prices: Purchased in advance: \$30 for adults, \$10 for students; or Purchased at the event: \$35 for adults, \$10 for students.



LBW COMMUNITY COLLEGE AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS STUDENTS RECENTLY TOURED Mitchell Nissan where the service writer explained how the dealership uses an electronic service managing system. Pictured are, from left, Timothy Peacock, Opp; Jordan Harris, Andalusia; Cierra Jackson, Kinston; and G-Tech dual enrollment students Paul McQueen of Samson; Tyler Hudson, Coffee Springs; Aaron Wolfe and Gavin Connor, both of Geneva; and Jacob Lowery, Slocomb.

Seniors age 60 and older encouraged to join fun at Elba Senior Center

The Elba Senior Citizens Center encourages all seniors - age 60 and older - to join the center for lots of fun, activities and more.

Along with nutritious meals 5-days-per-week, the director works with seniors to help them apply for several programs they may qualify for, including: Farmers Market Vouchers, HRDC- Energy Assistance, Food Assistance, Medicaid Waiver, Senior Rx Program,

Medicare Savings Program, etc. A senior must be an active participant at the Elba Senior center for the director to sign up for programs that they may qualify for to receive assistance.

To become a center participant, attendance is not based on income. This is a social place to come have fun and find or make new friends. If interested in joining the center, stop by or call 897-3019. The Elba Senior

Citizens Center is located at 304 N. Factory Ave., Elba. Also, seniors age 60 and older that cannot come to the center may qualify for meals being brought to home. Contact Donna Falls, Elba Senior Center director, for more information.

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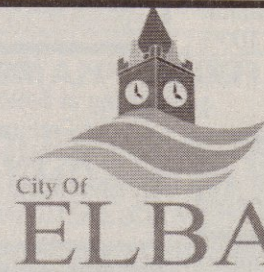
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February 1, 2020**

Penalties will be assessed if license is not
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Sally Bane, City Clerk

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COMMUNITY NEWS



LBW Community College recently recognized students completing the practical nursing portion of the ADN nursing program. Attending the pinning ceremony in Opp were, front row from left, Amber Hadley of Opp; Hannah Mathis of Highland Home; Jade Smith, of Dozier; Amber Sullivan, of New Brockton; second row, Lisabeth Messick of Opp; Amber Aplin, of Samson; Kelsey Green, of Honoraville; Marci Bess, of Opp; and LeAnn Canant, of Andalusia.

Troy University receives additional grant for plastics recycling research

The National Institute of Standards and Technology awarded Troy University a \$2.7 million research grant to be used by the University's Center for Materials and Manufacturing Sciences to research new methods for recycling plastics.

The four-year grant will fund instrumentation, staffing of scientists and research stipends for students. "The recently established Center for Materials and Manufacturing Sciences at Troy University will focus on the recycling of plastics and the development of standards for the recycled plastics," said Dr. Govind Menon, Director of TROY's School of Science and Technology. "It is evident from research, simple observation and the public attention drawn by the media that pollution by plastics is a major factor that will determine the eco-health of the planet. It is crucial that an unbiased academic center such as the CMMS exist to respond to this crisis."

This grant, which follows a \$3.2 million NIST grant in 2018, will fund research into recycling of waste polymers into new hybrid materials; using hemp fiber to reinforce plastics; and the

ESCC getting new pharmacy tech program

In Spring 2020, Enterprise State Community College will offer a new Pharmacy Technician program, providing instruction and training in one of the top four health science occupations in the local area.

Pharmacy technicians work under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. These professionals dispense prescription drugs to patients while providing instruction on how to properly take the medication. They are also required to understand medical insurance policies, know brand and generic names of drugs and interpret prescriptions among other skills.

"A successful Pharmacy Technician should have knowledge of customer and personal service, mathematics, clerical duties, and computers and electronics," director of Workforce Development Ian Campbell said.

The number of pharmacy technician jobs are expected to grow statewide over the next few years.

The 130-hour program will begin Jan. 28, 2020. The program consists of 50 classroom hours and 80 clinical hours.

Students interested in the program should have or be pursuing a high school diploma or GED. Cost for the program, which includes textbooks is \$1,399.

Classroom hours will take place every Tuesday and Thursday beginning Jan. 28, 2020, from 6:00-9:30 p.m.

For more information or to enroll, contact Ian Campbell at icampbell@escc.edu or call (334) 347-2623 ext.

characterization and testing of recycled polyethylene.

The center will serve as an integrated, multi-disciplinary research facility and will enable the University to build partnerships with the region's polymer and plastics industry in order to increase their competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Republican Women of Coffee County to meet Jan. 15th

The Republican Women of Coffee County will meet Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 11 a.m. at the Enterprise Country Club.

The program will be a Congressional District 2 Representative Candidate Forum.

ALEA's driver license division opens additional locations for Saturday services

In early December, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Driver License Division added to its Saturday operations lineup.

The Montgomery, Sheffield, Jacksonville, Tuscaloosa and Dothan locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Saturday. The agency launched the Saturday pilot program in April with its Birmingham, Opelika and Mobile offices; and it expanded Nov. 2 to include its Huntsville office. On Saturdays,

Forum.

Social time begins at 11 am and a \$12 optional buffet opens at 11:20. The program begins at approximately 11:50.

The public is invited to attend, but reservations are necessary in order to ensure adequate seating and food.

Call Jan at 334-494-3763 or email rwcreservations@gmail.com to make a reservation and indicate whether or not planning to eat.

walk-in customers are assisted on a first-come, first-served basis for such services as first issuances and renewals of standard driver licenses and non-driver IDs, as well as

STAR IDs; knowledge and road skills tests; and out-of-state transfers.

For reinstatement, customers may call 334.242.4400 Monday through Friday.

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COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION

Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Change in Fund Balance
All Governmental Fund Types, Proprietary Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds
For the Year Ended September 30, 2019

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES			CAPITAL PROJECTS	PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE ENTERPRISE	FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES		***TOTALS*** MEMORANDUM ONLY
	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE			EXPENDABLE TRUST		
REVENUES								
TAXES	7,029,340	928,878	0	0	0	0	7,958,018	
LICENSES & PERMITS	43,336	0	0	0	0	0	43,336	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	951,476	4,384,347	0	0	0	1,135	5,246,958	
CHARGES FOR SERVICE	1,826,339	162,415	0	0	8,840,319	22,993	8,632,056	
MISCELLANEOUS	593,761	340,985	0	0	384,412	83,471	1,382,629	
TOTAL REVENUES	10,154,232	5,816,425	0	0	7,204,732	107,589	23,282,985	
EXPENDITURES								
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	4,321,318	890,897	0	0	0	24,551	5,236,586	
PUBLIC SAFETY	4,446,444	0	0	0	0	0	4,446,444	
HIGHWAYS AND ROADS	0	4,311,349	0	0	0	0	4,311,349	
SANITATION	0	0	0	0	5,980,122	0	5,980,122	
HEALTH	38,324	0	0	0	0	0	38,324	
PUBLIC WELFARE	420,572	0	0	0	0	0	420,572	
CULTURE AND RECREATION	6,000	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	
EDUCATION	71,855	0	0	0	0	0	71,855	
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,860,369	1,182,253	0	0	1,667,395	0	4,710,007	
DEBT SERVICE								
PRINCIPAL RETIREMENT	170,452	1,205,665	337,195	0	919,079	0	2,632,387	
INTEREST	150,127	59,368	105,944	0	133,394	0	478,851	
FEES AND OTHER CHARGES	2,688	0	0	0	0	0	2,688	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	153,069	0	0	0	0	0	153,069	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	11,669,149	7,649,350	443,139	0	8,699,976	24,551	28,486,165	
EXCESS REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES								
	(1,514,897)	(1,832,924)	(443,139)	0	(1,495,244)	83,038	(5,203,187)	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)								
LOAN PROCEEDS	5,585,000	0	0	0	0	0	5,585,000	
BOND PROCEEDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	37,824	866,436	0	0	16,235	0	920,494	
PROCEEDS FROM INCEPTION OF CAPITAL LEASE	0	904,188	0	0	482,103	0	1,386,291	
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN	2,151,890	1,162,000	443,139	0	0	0	3,757,029	
OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT	(2,307,029)	(900,000)	0	0	(550,000)	0	(3,757,029)	
OTHER USES							0	
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	5,467,694	2,032,624	443,139	0	(71,662)	0	7,871,739	
EXCESS REVENUE AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES OVER (UNDER) OTHER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES								
	3,952,787	199,700	0	0	(1,560,908)	83,038	2,668,619	
FUND BALANCE - 09/30/2018	(3,919,161)	5,553,792	0	0	7,534,587	334,192	9,503,410	
FUND BALANCE- ENDING 09/30/2019	33,626	6,753,492	0	0	5,967,681	417,230	12,172,029	

Detailed statements of individual fund revenue and expenditures are available for public inspection at the County Commission Office during regular hours Monday-Friday. The totals are captioned "Memorandum Only" to indicate that they are presented merely to aid financial analysis. Information in this statement does not present the County's financial position or results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles; neither is data comparable to a consolidation of county funds; that is interfund elimination has not been used in totaling these figures. These figures represent unaudited data.

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

2012 Refunding	3,048,988
Loans Payable to Banks	7,215,080
Lease Purchase Equipment	4,371,721
Landfill Lease Purchase Equipment	983,521
Landfill Loans Payable to Banks	1,966,719
Roll-Off Loans Payable to Banks	0
Roll-Off Lease Purchase Equipment	95,917
Solid Waste Loans Payable to Banks	0
Solid Waste Lease Purchase Equipment	204,563
Total Indebtedness	17,886,510

Rod Morgan
County Administrator

SPORTS NEWS

Views From
The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Now that another Christmas morning is in the books our grandson Lawson has to try and figure out just when he will play with the numerous toys Santa brought. My first goal will be to help him learn to ride his new bicycle, but I am sure playing his video games are much higher on the priority list. Oh well, time is what I hope we have the most of.

For what it is worth....

*** *The Elba Tigers continued* their early-season struggles last week as they lost four straight games to watch their record slip to 1-4. The Tigers play hard for all four quarters in every game and never concede defeat, but so far just can't seem to get on track on both ends of the court and haven't found their shooting touch. Unlike many other fans, I still believe the Tigers can win more than their share of games and once they get rolling will be a team no one wants to play.

*** *The Elba Lady Tigers went 4-1 last week* to improve their record to 8-4 and this week will head to Red Level for three straight days to compete in a tournament. The Lady Tigers are a little frustrated they have had to settle for second place in all three tournaments they have competed, but have gained valuable experience in all dozen games they have played, and the fact they will have 15 games under their belts before the start of the new year should pay big dividends.

*** *Brantley and New Brockton* were the only area teams to stay busy last week, and while the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs enjoyed a winning week, the folks over at New Brockton struggled. The Bulldogs remained undefeated with a host of impressive wins and have their fans talking about a state tournament run before area play even starts, while the Lady Bulldogs got on a roll against some very tough competition and began to settle in to their new coach and new style of play. Things are looking bright for both the boys and girls teams in Brantley! Over at New Brockton, the Gamecocks struggled to score points in a couple of losses, while the Lady Gamecocks never even came close and just have to gauge success by improvement and forget about their record.

*** *The Alabama High School Athletic Association* released its new classifications for the 2020-2022 school years and as expected Elba High moved back into the 2A ranks, despite losing eight students since moving down to 1A two years ago. The loss of students was overshadowed by a host of other 2A teams moving down to the 1A ranks, and next season in football the Tigers will compete in the region with Geneva County, Cottonwood, Houston County, Abbeville, G.W. Long, Arton and Zion Chapel, and have added non-region games with 3A Daleville, 3A Opp and 3A Providence Christian. This move has created some new rivalries for Elba High and its fans, and the schedule looks like one of the toughest in many years!

The new classifications have created excitement all across the state as a host of teams made moves both up and down in class. In 7A, the most notable teams to move up were Dothan and Daphne, while 7A teams moving down included past 7A powers Mt. Brook, McGill-Toolen and Robert E. Lee. In the 6A ranks, new faces will include Valley, Briarwood Christian and Citronelle, while moving out were Mae Jemison, Selma and B.C. Rain. In Class 5A, new teams include UMS-Wright, Andalusia and Headland, while heading down are Vigor, Jackson and Etowah. New teams in the 4A ranks will include Geneva, Straughn and Bullock County, while former 4A's moving down include Hillcrest Evergreen, Monroe County and Trinity. In the 3A ranks, New Brockton, Goshen and Fyffe all moved up, while Clarke County, Pisgah and Lamar County all moved down a notch. In Class 2A, new faces from 1A include Elba, Laett, Isabella and St. Luke's, while those moving down to 1A included Samson, Barbour County, and Central, of Dayneville.

A few football regions that caught my eye included Class A, Region 1, where Samson slid in the place of Elba; Class A, Region 2, where Daleville, Houston Academy, New Brockton, Opp, Providence Christian, Slocomb and Wicksburg will butt heads; Class 4A, Region 2, where the family will include Alabama Christian, Ashford, Bullock County, Dale County, Geneva, Straughn and Booker T. Washington; Class 5A, Region 2, which includes Andalusia, Carroll, Charles Henderson, Greenville, Headland, Pike Road and Lehigh; and, Class 7A, Region 2, which includes Auburn, Central Phenix City, Dothan, Enterprise, Jeff Davis, Prattville and Smiths Station.

*** *The year 2019* certainly had its ups and downs for the Mularz Family, but there was never any doubt how blessed we were, and here is hoping that 2020 will bring with it joy and peace.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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DEZMION ROBERSON NOW A HILLTOPPER.... Elba Tiger Dezmon Roberson made it official last week that he would continue his football career at Western Kentucky, at an official signing ceremony at the Elba High Media Center. Taking part in the ceremony were (seated) Terrell Roberson, Dezmon Roberson, Lydia Roberson, (standing, l-r) Jason Tucker, asst. principal; Johnny Dyess, asst. coach; Glen Johnson, head coach; William Moguel, asst. coach; Austin Johnson, asst. coach; Chris Moseley; Supt.; and Wynn Grimes, principal.

(Photo by BC Sports Photography)

Roberson signs with Western Kentucky

Elba Tiger football stand-out Dezmon Roberson made his plans for his future on the gridiron official last week when he signed a scholarship to attend Western Kentucky University, in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Roberson, rated a 3 Star recruit, is a 6-3, 200 pound, linebacker, and also drew interest from Troy, UAB, Middle Tennessee and Samford, but chose to sign with the Hilltoppers, and will report to the team in January as an early-enrollee.

"Western Kentucky is a great place and has a really good football program," stated Roberson. "It is

family oriented and that was what I was looking for in a football team and a college. I really like their coaching staff. Coach (Tyson) Helton is the head coach and he seems more like a father than just a head coach. His goal is to teach you to develop into the man you will be for the rest of your life and not just as a football player. The campus is lovely, the town is not too big, and I really feel like I won't be leaving home. It reminds me of Elba, and that is good."

Elba Tiger coach Glen Johnson stated, "Dez was a tremendous high school football player and will be a

solid player at the next level. He is a great kid and a hard worker, and that will help carry him to success in college. He has been a leader for our program both on and off the field, and was like a coach on the field and made all the calls on defense. He is a relentless defender and loves the game."

Roberson led the Tigers as a senior with 149 tackles, including 62 solo tackles, seven tackles for losses, six quarterback sacks, one interception returned for a touchdown, and also had a tackle for a safety. As a wide receiver, he caught 10 passes for 215 yards and five touch-

downs.

Western Kentucky is a member of Conference USA and this season posted an 8-4 record, 6-2 in the conference, and earned a berth in the ServPro First Responders Bowl. Coach Tyson Helton was named the conference 'Coach of the Year,' and in the early signing period the Hilltoppers signed 15 players, including 9 early enrollees, 9 high school players, 6 junior college players, and signed players from 10 different states.

Next season's schedule includes games against Louisville, UAB, Army, Arkansas and Southern Miss.

Elba Tigers struggle through winless week

The Elba Tigers continue their early-season struggles last week as they hit the basketball court four times and failed to post a win as their record slipped to 1-4.

Following are highlights of the four games:

Zion Chapel 43 Elba 42

The Elba Tigers watched a 17-point second half lead evaporate in a disappointing 43-42 loss to the Zion Chapel Rebels, last Monday night at Zion Chapel.

The Tigers came out ready to play against their cross county rivals and behind the play of John Martin Wilson and Chrystyle Caldwell bolted out to a 9-0 lead with 2:09 left in the opening stanza. The Rebels finally got on the scoreboard with 1:33 remaining on a basket by Connor Kelley, but the Tigers never lost command and carried a 12-4 lead into the second quarter after a late 3-pointer from deep in the corner by Collin Harrison.

Elba opened the second quarter with a 7-2 run to stretch its lead to 19-6, and upped its lead to 22-8 with 3:32 left in the quarter when Harrison again connected from behind the arc. Zion Chapel's Brady Cobb hit four free throws late in the quarter to keep the Rebels alive. However, Elba's Brandon Epps scored late as

the Tigers went in at intermission with a 28-14 lead.

The Rebels scored the first three points of the third quarter to pull within eleven points at 28-17, but the Tigers came right back and led by the play of Chrystyle Caldwell opened up their biggest lead of the game at 34-17 with 5:04 left in the period. Zion Chapel again bounced back and after baskets by Brockston Bragg and Michael McDaniel cut the Elba lead to 34-21, and after a late free throw by McDaniel was within 35-24 heading into the final stanza.

Zion Chapel's Connor Kelley and Bryce Watson led a Rebel rally early in the fourth quarter that cut the Tigers lead to 35-30 with 6:10 left on the clock, and the Rebels got within 36-34 with 3:32 remaining after Elba misfired on four straight free throw chances. The Rebels pulled even at 38-38 with 1:33 left when Zakryan Adair drained a pair of free throws, and took their first lead of the game at 40-38 with 1:04 left on a basket by Adair. The Tigers regained the lead at 42-40 with 39-seconds left after a free throw by John Martin Wilson and a three-point play by Chrystyle Caldwell, but the Rebels refused to quit and pulled out the win when Brady Cobb scored with 30-seconds left and then hit a free throw with only two ticks left on the clock to give the Rebels the improbable 43-42 win.

Chrystyle Caldwell and Collin Harrison scored 14 points, apiece, to lead Elba, while Brady Cobb led the Rebels with 18 points.

Z.C. (43): Kelley 8, Bragg 4, Cobb 18, McCrory 2, Adair 6, McDaniel 4, Watson 2.

Elba (42): Lane 4, Wilson 5, C. Caldwell 14, Harrison 14, D. Caldwell 2, Epps 2, Burks 1.

(JV Game)

The Elba Tigers saw an early lead vanish in the second quarter and never recovered in a 44-37 loss to

The Tigers came out on fire and led 13-11 after the first quarter, but the Rebels went on an 18-7 run in the second stanza to go ahead 29-20 and never lost command as they rolled to the 44-37 win.

Z.C. (44): L. Grantham 2, Watson 13, Bragg 2, Chestnut 11, S. Grantham 10, Stuart 4, Adcock 4.

Elba (37): Thomas 5, Hill 9, Peterson 6, Mereck 9, Griffin 1, Washington 3, Hamilton 4.

Luverne 66 Elba 51

The Elba Tigers saw a one-point halftime lead vanish early in the third quarter in a 66-51 loss to the Luverne Tigers, last Tuesday night in Elba.

Elba jumped out to an early 4-2 lead on a pair of free throws by JT Coleman, but Luverne came roaring back and used a 9-0 run to grab an 11-4 lead with 3:38 left in the opening stanza. Luverne stretched its lead to 17-8 with 2:01 left, but the Tigers rallied late behind the play of Chrystyle Caldwell and trailed only 18-15 heading into the second quarter.

The teams swapped baskets for much of the second quarter as Luverne was never able to extend its lead to more than seven points, and JT Coleman sparked a late Elba rally as the Tigers closed the quarter with a 10-2 run to carry a 33-32 lead in at the half.

Luverne picked up the pace in the third quarter and opened the stanza with a 10-0 run to open up a 42-33 lead, but the Tigers refused to throw in the towel and battled back as Byron Burks and Chrystyle Caldwell sparked a late Elba rally to cut the Luverne lead to 48-45.

Elba trailed only 50-47 early in the fourth quarter after two free throws by Caldwell, but Luverne used an 8-3 run to stretch its lead to 58-50 with 4:40 remaining and this time never lost control and it handed the Tigers a 66-51 defeat.

Chrystyle Caldwell scored 28 points and JT

Elba, while Caleb Brooks led Luverne with 24 points.

Luverne (66): Moneyham 6, Glanton 1, Turner 4, Magwood 1, Wilson 8, Ezell 15, Gregory 8, Smith 2, Brooks 24.

Elba (51): Lane 2, Harrison 5, Coleman 12, Burks 3, Wilson 1, Caldwell 28.

(JV Game)

The Elba Tigers pulled ahead early and never looked back to claim a big 41-31 win over Luverne. The Tigers opened up an early 10-point advantage and turned back repeated Luverne rallies to post the exciting win.

Elba (41): Washington 4, Thomas 6, Hamilton 6, Hall 7, Peterson 8, Mereck 8, Daniels 2.

Luverne (31): Harris 4, J. Taylor 2, Jones 4, N. Taylor 4, Smith 8, Hartnett 7, Till 2.

Slocomb 65 Elba 49

The Elba Tigers saw a three point second quarter result in a big halftime deficit and never recovered in a 65-49 loss to the Slocomb Red Tops, at last week's Slocomb Holiday Hoops Classic.

The Tigers trailed only 15-13 after one quarter of action as Chrystyle Caldwell and Dylan Caldwell combined for seven points, but then managed only one basket and one free throw in the second quarter as the Red Tops stretched their lead to 33-16 at the half.

Brandon Epps and John Martin Wilson scored four points, each, in the third quarter as the Tigers matched Slocomb basket for basket, and Levi Carnley drained two long 3-pointers in the final stanza; However, Elba was never able to cut into the lead and suffered the 65-49 loss.

Chrystyle Caldwell scored 9 points to lead Elba, while Jaylen Nobles led Slocomb with 19 points.

Slocomb (65): Whitaker

Continued on Page 9

Please see....

"Elba Tigers"

SPORTS NEWS

*Improve record to 8-4***Lady Tigers enjoy a winning week**

The Elba Lady Tigers enjoyed a busy week on the basketball court and improved their record to 8-4 as they posted four wins against only one loss.

Following are highlights of the five games:

Elba 44 Zion Chapel 11

The Elba Lady Tigers tipped off the busy week of action with a Monday night cross county showdown against Zion Chapel and overcame a slow start to ambush the Lady Rebels 44-11, at Zion Chapel.

The score was tied at 2-2 early in the opening quarter and the Lady Rebels trailed only 8-5 heading into the second quarter after a late 3-pointer by Kaylin McAllister. However, the Lady Tigers came out determined to take command in the second quarter, and led by the play of Melissa Williams quickly stretched their lead to 13-5. Back to back 3-pointers by Elba's Melissa Williams and Nina Williams enabled the Lady Tigers to open up a 19-8 lead with 11:16 left in the stanza, and the Lady Tigers carried a 19-9 lead in at intermission.

Elba was determined to get the ball inside in the third quarter and did just that as Jaylen Baker scored 8 straight points to push the Lady Tigers lead to 27-9 with 3:46 left in the stanza. Elba's defensive pressure held the Lady Rebels scoreless in the third quarter and for one minute in the final stanza until Alanah Bunce scored on a driving lay up, and the Lady Tigers never lost command as they went up 42-11 on a 3-pointer by Celeste Edwards and with a running clock rolled to the big 44-11 win.

Jaylen Baker scored 14 points and Melissa Williams added 8 to lead Elba, while Janna Miles led the Lady Rebels with 5 points.

Elba (44): Sanders 2, N. Williams 5, Hooks 3, M. Williams 8, U. Chism 3, Baker 14, Hammonds 1, Caldwell 2, A. Chism 1, Edwards 3, Siler 2.

Z.C. (11): Miles 5, Bunce 3, McAllister 3.

Elba 55 Luverne 40

The Elba Lady Tigers staged a second quarter rally to take the lead and held on to defeat Luverne 55-40, last Tuesday night in Elba.

Elba scored only two points in the games initial five minutes and trailed 8-2 when Elba's Melissa Williams scored to cut the lead to 8-4, but Luverne quickly extended its lead to 13-6 and carried a 13-7 lead into the second quarter after the Lady Tigers misfired on 4 of 5 free throw tries in the closing seconds.

Luverne's lead grew to 15-7 early in the second quarter. However, the Lady Tigers suddenly came to life and sparked by the play of Jaylen Baker went on a 9-0 run to sneak ahead 16-15 with 3:01 left in the quarter. Luverne regained the lead at 17-16, but a 3-pointer by Nina Williams ignited a 5-0 run that pushed the Lady Tigers lead to 21-17 with 1:22 left, and at the half the Lady Tigers went in with a 24-21 advantage.

Luverne came back out ready to play in the third quarter and outscored Elba 7-2 to move back on top 28-26 with 4:39 remaining, only to see the Lady Tigers close the stanza on a 12-0 run behind the scoring of Nina Williams and Freeda Hooks as they carried a 38-28 lead into the final stanza.

Luverne scored the first points of the fourth quarter to cut the Elba lead to 38-31, but the Lady Tigers responded with a 9-0 run that upped their lead to 47-31, and Elba coasted in with the impressive 55-40 win.

Nina Williams scored 14 points to lead Elba, while Jaylen Baker added 13 and Freeda Hooks scored 12. La'shanti Thomas scored 14 points to lead Luverne.

Elba (55): Baker 13, N. Williams 14, M. Williams 5, U. Chism 3, Sanders 4, Flowers 2, Edwards 2, Hooks 12.

Luverne (40): Richardson 9, Johnson 5, Thomas 14, Williams 8, Burnett 4.

Elba 44 Houston Acad. 39

The Elba Lady Tigers pulled ahead early and held on late to post a 44-29 win over Houston Academy, at the Slocomb Holiday Hoops Classic.

The Lady Tigers came out ready to roll and pulled out to a 14-10 first quarter advantage behind the scoring of Me-

lissa Williams and Breanna Sanders, but managed only one field goal in the second quarter as Houston Academy closed to within 22-20 at the half.

Yada Caldwell came off the bench to provide a spark in the third quarter and muscled inside to score seven points as the Lady Tigers pushed their lead to 32-28, and Jaylen Baker scored five points in the final stanza and Breanna Sanders added a big 3-pointer as Elba held on for the 44-39 win.

Yada Caldwell scored 9 points to lead Elba, while Jaylen Baker and Melissa Williams both added 8. Camille Reeves scored 14 points to lead Houston Academy.

Elba (44): Baker 8, N. Williams 2, U. Chism 3, M. Williams 8, Sanders 7, Hooks 7, Caldwell 9.

H.A. (39): Reeves 14, Connor 10, Caldwell 2, King 2, Baker 4, Hewes 6, Holland 1.

Elba 48 Pike County 27

The Elba Lady Tigers made it look easy in a 48-27 win over the Pike County Lady Bulldogs, at the Slocomb Holiday Hoops Classic.

Elba combined the early scoring of Jaylen Baker and Melissa Williams and an aggressive defense to jump out to an early 11-0 lead, and despite a late Pike County basket carried a 13-3 lead into the second stanza.

The contest turned into a half court game in the second quarter on both ends of the court as the teams traded baskets early. However, Melissa Williams and Freeda Hooks sparked a 12-0 run to end the quarter, and the Lady Tigers connected on 6 of 7 free throws in the closing minutes to open up a solid 25-6 halftime bulge.

Elba's lead grew to 29-6 early in the third quarter as Freeda Hooks turned a pair of turnovers into easy baskets, while the teams swapped baskets for the remainder of the stanza as the Lady Tigers owned a 35-13 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Pike County got as close as 14 points in the fourth quarter, but the Lady Tigers never lost command and scored the game's final seven points to close out the lopsided 48-27 win.

Freeda Hooks scored 16 points and Melissa Williams added 14 to lead Elba, while Berry scored 8 points to lead Pike County.

Elba (48): Baker 9, N. Williams 4, M. Williams 14, Sanders 3, Flowers 1, Edwards 1, Hooks 16.

P.C. (27): Terry 2, Eutsey 2, Broadnax 5, Rouse 3, Boyd 3, Berry 8.

Poplar Springs 46 Elba 37

The Elba Lady Tigers watched a one-point halftime lead vanish early in the third quarter and never recovered in a disappointing 46-37 loss to Poplar Springs, at the Slocomb Holiday Hoops Classic.

Poplar Springs jumped out to an early 7-2 lead in the opening stanza and owned a 14-6 advantage with 3:43 left in the quarter before a late 3-pointer by Nina Williams enabled the Lady Tigers to close to within 15-11.

Poplar Springs extended its lead to 19-11 with 6:51 remaining in the second quarter and appeared ready to run away. However, Elba rallied behind the inside scoring of Jaylen Baker to pull within 20-19 with 1:52 left and grabbed its first lead at 20-19 with 1:52 remaining in the quarter when Baker got inside for a basket.

Poplar Springs came out fast in the third quarter and scored the first six points of the stanza to regain the lead at 25-20, and stretched its lead to 36-28 on a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Poplar Springs opened up a 42-29 advantage early in the fourth quarter after a pair of 3-pointers, and while the Lady Tigers did rally and cut the lead to 42-37 with 2:46 remaining on a three-point play by Jaylen Baker, they could get no closer as Poplar Springs held on for the 46-37 win.

Nina Williams scored 15 points and Jaylen Baker added 12 to lead Elba, while Erin Shiver scored 14 points, including 12 points in the third quarter, to lead Poplar Springs.

P.S. (46): B. Smith 6, Dixon 5, A. Smith 8, Wilson 9, Owens 2, Ealum 2, Shiver 14.

Elba (37): Baker 12, N. Williams 15, M. Williams 4, Edwards 2, Hooks 4.



Elba Lady Tiger Nina Williams (3) drives down the lane for an easy basket. Williams scored 14 points in last week's win over Luverne and scored 15 points in a loss to Poplar Springs.

(Photo by BC Sports Photography)

Continued from Page 8....**“Elba Tigers”**

17, Dunlop 9, Nobles 19, Boyett 13, Brown 3, Lindsay 2, Miller 2.

Elba (49): Tidwell 2, Lane 7, Moguel 3, Harrison 4, Camley 6, Coleman 5, Epps 4, Wilson 6, C. Caldwell 9, D. Caldwell 3.

Dale County 66 Elba 39

The Elba Tigers fell behind early and never threatened in a lopsided 66-39 loss to the Dale County Warriors, at the Slocomb Holiday Hoops Classic.

Elba managed only a basket by Chrystyle Caldwell in the first quarter as Dale County raced out to a 14-2 lead, and while Caldwell did heat up in the second stanza and poured in 10 points, the Warriors never lost command and carried a 32-16 lead in at the half.

Caldwell and John Martin Wilson sparked the Tigers effort in the third quarter as the duo combined for 13 points, but Dale County never slowed down and early in the final stanza stretched its lead to thirty points as the clock ran non-stop in the Warriors big 66-39 win.

Chrystyle Caldwell scored 21 points and John Martin Wilson added 9 to lead Elba, while Greer led Dale County with 18 points.

Dale Co. (66): Martin 5, Mitchell 4, Wesley 14, Capel 4, Riggs 7, Crossley 1, Rodgers 8, Greer 18, Jennings 5.

Elba (39): Lane 2, Harrison 4, Coleman 1, Wilson 9, C. Caldwell 21, D. Caldwell 2.

High School**ROUNDBALL ROUNDUP****New Brockton edges past Kinston 49-47**

The New Brockton Gamecocks rallied late to escape with a 49-47 win over the Kinston Bulldogs. Dillon Kelty scored 14 points and CJ Wilkerson added 11 to lead the Gamecocks, while Cale Sumblin scored 21 points and Ayden Wallace added 17 for the Bulldogs.

Brantley Bulldogs pound Eagles 84-50

The Brantley Bulldogs took command early and rolled to an impressive 84-50 win over the Pleasant Home Eagles. Tucker Kilcrease nailed five 3-pointers and scored 17 points to lead the Bulldogs, while Billy Burnett added 16 points and 10 rebounds, Taye Person added 15 points, and Kenwyn Dixon and Khaliq Smith both added 11 points.

Brantley Bulldogs cage Purple Cats 49-41

The Brantley Bulldogs had to battle for all four quarters to claim a 49-41 win over the Arton Purple Cats. Tucker Kilcrease scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Bulldogs, while Billy Burnett added 11 points and 12 rebounds and Taye Person scored 10 points. Hayes

Floyd scored 14 points to lead the Purple Cats.

New Brockton buried by Rehobeth 77-36

The New Brockton Gamecocks struggled on both ends of the court in a 77-36 loss to the Rehobeth Rebels. Dillon Kelty scored 11 points to lead the Gamecocks, while Parker Thomas led the rebels with 11 points.

Brantley Bulldogs pop Providence 65-41

The Brantley Bulldogs led all the way in a 65-41 win over Providence Christian. Taye Person scored 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Bulldogs, while Tucker Kilcrease added 14 points and 8 rebounds and Billy Burnett added 13 points and 10 rebounds.

New Brockton clawed by Panthers 60-40

The New Brockton Gamecocks dropped a 60-40 outcome to the Wicksburg Panthers. Tariq Walker scored 14 points and Dillon Kelty added 10 to lead the Gamecocks, while Devon-tae White scored 24 points to lead the Panthers.

Brantley Bulldogs maul McKenzie 71-31

The Brantley Bulldogs

made it look easy in a 71-31 romp past McKenzie. Taye Person and Billy Burnett both scored 11 points to lead the Bulldogs, while Khaliq Smith added 10.

Lady Bulldogs down Pleasant Home 36-29

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs battled for all four quarters in a 36-29 win over Pleasant Home. Yasmine Upshaw scored 14 points to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Gabby Perkins added 11 points and 15 rebounds.

Brantley Lady Bulldogs cage Lady Cats 51-41

The Brantley Bulldogs posted an impressive 51-41 win over Arton. Gabby Perkins scored 27 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Sheonte Barginere added 11 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. Zakaria Johnson scored 24 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for Arton.

Lady Bulldogs push past Providence 56-50

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs held on late to post a big 56-50 win over Providence Christian. Gabby Perkins scored 28 points and grabbed 20 rebounds to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Emory Bush added 12 points and Yasmine Upshaw added 11. Autumn Mayes scored 20 points for Providence.

Lady Gamecocks fall to Lady Rebels 53-12

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks fell to the Rehobeth Lady Rebels 53-12. Madison Meeks scored 5 points to lead the Lady Gamecocks, while McKenna Linder led Rehobeth with 9 points.

Lady Bulldogs clobber McKenzie 68-24

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs rolled to an easy 68-24

win over McKenzie. Yasmine Upshaw scored 23 points to lead the Lady Bulldogs and Gabby Perkins added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Lady Gamecocks ripped by Wicksburg 59-16

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks were outscored by Wicksburg 59-16. Madison Meeks scored 8 points to lead the Lady Gamecocks.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Looking for Something to do in January... Check Out Dothan's Landmark Park!

JAN 4, 11, 25 • **BIRD WORKSHOPS** Landmark Park will offer three bird workshops this winter. Learn about these fascinating and lovely creatures of flight found in our local forests as well as your own backyard. All workshops begin at 10 a.m., are free with gate admission, and will be presented in the Interpretive Center Auditorium. Registration is required. To register, please go to www.landmarkparkdothan.com.

• On January 4, Jatin Patel will present a program on birds of prey.

• Dr. Gary Manfreedy will be back to conduct the Bluebird workshop on Saturday, January 11.

• On January 25, Fred Basset will return to present the popular program on Hummingbirds. Basset is a licensed bird bander specializing in the banding of hummingbirds. This is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of hummingbirds and neo-tropical migrants.

JANUARY 18 • **INTRO TO LEATHER CRAFT** at 9 a.m. in the Interpretive Center Auditorium, students will be introduced to the basic skills used in leather work. Little to no experience is necessary. The class will complete a project together (key chain or bracelet). Students will learn about types of leather, how to cut patterns, basic tools used in leather craft, how to hand stitch and other simple techniques used in leather craft. The fee is regular gate admission (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids, free for park members) plus a \$5 materials fee. Registration and prepayment of \$5 material fee is required to ensure adequate supplies. Space is limited. Visit www.landmarkparkdothan.com to register.

JANUARY 25 • **SEED SWAP** from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. the Wiregrass Master Gardeners will host a Seed Swap in the Stokes Activity Barn. Similar to a potluck dinner, gardeners are encouraged to bring samples of their favorite heirloom seeds to exchange with others. Admission is free with paid gate fee (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids and free for members). A small portion of seeds distributed will be placed in our Seed Bank for future generations.

JANUARY 27 • **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER** Bring in 2020 in Roaring Twenties style! Landmark Park is celebrating 43 years in 2020. Enjoy a meal, learn what we've been up to for the past year and hear all about our plans for the future. We will also recognize the winners of the Heritage Award, Volunteer Service Award, and new and retiring board members. Tickets required, call 334-794-3452.

Join the Elba Chamber of Commerce

Call Sandy Bynum at

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elbachamber@troycable.net

Elba mayor hands out service awards at Christmas lunch

The City of Elba and Elba Water and Electric Board hosted a Christmas lunch Tuesday, Dec. 17, for all employees as a way of saying "thank you" to the employees for their dedicated service to the city this year, as well as, a celebration of the holiday.

Mayor Mickey Murdock addressed the employees, and specifically thanked them for all the hard work they had done during his time as mayor. He said he does not plan to seek re-election in 2020 as mayor, but said he is very proud of the many things the city has accomplished during his time as Mayor of Elba.

Murdock said when he first accepted the job as mayor, two major things he heard from citizens was a need to improve the city's finances and improve the city's beauty and image. He said he feels both of these things have been accomplished during his time as mayor, and he thanked the employees for their dedicated service in helping achieve those goals. Murdock also noted that several major projects will be ongoing in 2020, but when those projects are completed, he said Elba's infrastructure will be good. He said a good infrastructure is imperative for the city's growth.

Also during the luncheon, the mayor presented several service awards to employees. These awards are presented to employees on a 5-year basis. There were six awards total presented: two 5-Year awards, two 10-Year awards, and two 20-Year awards. Photos of these award recipients are show below and to the right. Not pictured is 5-Year Service Award recipient Debra Spikes [she was unable to attend the employee luncheon].



20 YEARS OF SERVICE...Jesse Miller (left) received a 20-Year Service award last Tuesday, Dec. 17, from Elba Mayor Mickey Murdock (right) during a Christmas lunch held at the recreation center honoring all city and water and electric department employees.



20 YEARS OF SERVICE...Vic Davis (left) received a 20-Year Service award last Tuesday, Dec. 17, from Elba Mayor Mickey Murdock (right) during a Christmas lunch held at the recreation center honoring all city and water and electric department employees.



10 YEARS OF SERVICE...Shayne Arnett (left) received a 10-Year Service award last Tuesday, Dec. 17, from Elba Mayor Mickey Murdock (right) during a Christmas lunch held at the recreation center honoring all city and water and electric department employees.

LBWCC is planning Jan. 9th reception for interim president

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College welcomes Dr. Chris Cox as interim president with a public reception set for Thursday, Jan. 9, from 2-4 p.m. in the lobby of the Martha and Solon Dixon Theater for the Performing Arts located on the Andalusia campus.

The announcement of Cox as interim president came from Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Chancellor Jimmy Baker, who said Cox's wealth of experience and innovative ideas will be a great value to LBWCC.

Cox has more than 24 years of higher education administration experience, most previously serving as ACCS executive director of Workforce Solutions and Innovations. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in social science from Troy State University, a Master of Science in educational administration from Alabama State University, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in educational administration from Auburn University.

The welcome reception, funded by the LBWCC Foundation, is an opportunity for the public to meet Cox as he steps into LBWCC's lead role.

"Foundation board members and the LBWCC Executive Council invite the community to a reception to get to know Dr. Cox and welcome him to the College," said Dr. Arlene Davis, associate dean of institutional advancement.

The reception is designed to allow community members an opportunity to drop by for a few minutes in a come-and-go, relaxed format.



5 YEARS OF SERVICE...Ashley Horton (left) received a 5-Year Service award last Tuesday, Dec. 17, from Elba Mayor Mickey Murdock (right) during a Christmas lunch held at the recreation center honoring all city and water and electric department employees.



5 YEARS OF SERVICE...Ronnie Jo Cooper (left) received a 5-Year Service award last Tuesday, Dec. 17, from Elba Mayor Mickey Murdock (right) during a Christmas lunch held at the recreation center honoring all city and water and electric department employees.

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